Instructional Technology Newsline

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In This Issue . . .

Instructional Technology Update

In the Fall 2001 issue of Technos one article talks about how the technology boom in education is behind us, that it has peaked like the use of film strips, overhead projectors, laser disks, etc. Meanwhile, an article in the November eSchool News Online predicts that, while many market segments are scaling back on technology spending, K-12 spending on servers will reach record levels this school year. The authors reason that schools have increased interest in local and wide area networking. I suspect that there's truth to both of these articles. From our 2001 technology census data, we know that Missouri schools have connectivity, that three-fourths of school buildings have a LAN and over two-thirds are connected to a district WAN. Nonetheless, as the eSchool News article noted, "the opportunity to apply networking technology to the classroom is only just beginning."

The real issue is whether the use of technologies in the classrooms is transforming teaching and improving student learning. I posit that Missouri schools are ahead of the national curve. Are we

there yet? No. Are we making great strides? Yes. Are we enjoying the odyssey? I certainly hope so. I believe we all can agree it's for a great cause.   -Deb

Education Technology Conference 2001: A Technology Odyssey

The 2001fall technology conference was a success. Over 1600 attended this year's conference, including 1151 conference attendees, 139 presenters, 20 UMC teacher education students, 40 K-12 student exhibitors, 199 vendor exhibitors, and DESE and MOREnet hosts. Over half of the attendees were teachers, predominantly K-12 teachers. The next largest groups represented included technology coordinators, librarians, and administrators.

Nearly 1,000 conference evaluations were collected on Tuesday (Yes, bribery works). Overall, the evaluations were very positive, with the highest ratings going to keynote speakers Jamie McKenzie and David Thornburg.
- ?? To learn more from Jamie, check out his website at www.fno.org/ and sign up for free monthly newsletter. "From Now On - The educational Technology Journal" provides timely articles, how-to articles, excerpts from Jamie's popular books, and artwork.
- ?? The Thornburg Center website (www.tcpd.org/) provides information about David's presentations and publications, downloadable handouts, lists of suggested readings, and his recent magazine articles and PBS features.

A quick look at the breakout sessions suggested that the more popular sessions focused on integration practices more than access and resource information. Also receiving high marks were the on-site and online registration processes, the vendor exhibits, and the student exhibits.

MOREnet and DESE staffs are already planning for next year's conference – tentatively set for October 6-8, 2002. Be sure to share your ideas or suggestions (for keynote speakers, hot topics, emerging technologies, etc.) by contacting either Instructional Technology or MOREnet TNP staff.

FY02 Instructional Technology Grant Programs

TAG/VIDEO Grants
The last of the 524 K-12 TAG applications were approved in October -- the earliest date in the history of the program. Likewise, the last of the 547 K-12 and higher education VIDEO applications have been approved. With the funding at only 25%, seven applicants elected to not submit a VIDEO application.

Instructional Technology and Informational Technology staffs are identifying enhancements for next year. Please share with us any feedback/suggestions that you might have regarding the application forms and the submission and approval process.

TLCF Grants Update
FY01 Grants – **All districts that received a TLCF grant in school year 2000-2001 must complete their online TLCF Performance Reports, by no later than December 1, 2001**. The report is located at www.tlcfonline.net/ and includes a "how to" section with step-by-step directions on how to enter data and complete the report. Your timely completion of the district reports is greatly appreciated!

FY02 Grants – Forty-eight second-year TLCF applications will be funded this year. Thus far, 38 have successfully completed the negotiation process and are "final" approved. The substantially approved date is October 1, 2001.

IDL Grants and Distance Learning Update
All 21 IDL applications have received final approval. These grants bring the total of districts using two-way interactive distance learning to over 210. Over half of these districts are, or soon will be, able to use both H.320 and H.323 technologies. This should allow the districts more flexibility in meeting the curricular needs of their students.

TNP and eMINTS Programs Update
FY02 Budgets – At this time we anticipate reducing user fees for TNP participants by 40% and that we will be able to purchase student computers for eMINTS program participants. Please note, HOWEVER, the final decision will NOT be made until January, when we are more certain about the status of our state budget allocations.

CIPA Compliance – **Approximately 50 districts have not returned their Form 479s to MOREnet.** All TNP and eMINTS schools must have a state-approved technology plan and meet CIPA compliance. MOREnet cannot receive e-rate discounts on the Internet access charges for schools that do not submit a Form 479 or do not indicate compliance. Schools not in compliance likely will be charged for the state's lost discounts. Questions about Form 479 should be referred to Eric Nicklas at MOREnet. Questions about state-approved tech plans should be directed to Kathy Parris in our office.

Filtering Software – Department staff are investigating possibilities of subsidizing appropriate software packages to help leverage costs for K-12 schools. We are looking into state contract options, meeting with several vendors, and testing software. We hope to reach a decision in the next month or so.

Federal Technology Grants Update
Because of anthrax scares, Congress has been in and out of session, trying to work out differences between the two education bills. In mid October, the word was that states would get block grants for K-12 federal technology programs. In addition to the next version of the TLCF, the funds likely will include other grant programs that have been handled by the U.S. Department of Education like the Technology Innovative Challenge grant program. The distribution of these funds to states would be similar to the Title I formula. States would distribute 50% of the funds in formula grants and 50% via competitive grants. Portions of the competitive funds could be used to increase formula grant amounts that are deemed too small to make an impact. All grant recipients must use 25% of the funds for professional development activities unless the school can prove it already has in place an effective, ongoing program. The state can grant a waiver for this requirement.

Note that the conference committee has not yet resolved all the issues, and it will take some time before the funds become available when the education bill is settled. To follow the ESEA legislation, visit http://thomas.loc.gov/.

2001 Census of Technology Update

As noted last month, this year's Census of Technology (COT) encountered technical glitches and scheduling conflicts. The good news is that all districts and schools participated in the 2001 COT

and we have the data stored. The bad news is that some of the data fields are problematic and staff who would assist in data analysis and reporting are tied up with MAP and MSIP data projects. Because we must have the data compiled to complete the State portion of the TLCF Online Report which is due in December, we should be able to make a report next month.

E-rate Program

Year 4 – Wave 7 Funding Commitment Letters Released
On October 31, the Schools and Libraries Division issued the seventh wave of letters for Year 4 (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002). The SLD committed over $70.3 million in nearly 482 letters, bringing the total commitment to $1.6 billion. Uncertainty still exists at this time about internal connections requests at the 85% to 89% discount rates. (www.sl.universalservice.org)

Year 5 – Application Window To Open November 5
The Form 471 application filing window will be open from noon Eastern Standard Time (EST) Monday, November 5, 2001 to 11:59 p.m. EST on Thursday, January 17, 2002. **File early and online** – the sooner applications are received, the sooner the funding commitment decisions. Key dates include:
   - ?? **November 5, 2001** – Application filing window opens for FCC Form 471 at noon EST.
   - ?? **December 12, 2001** – Manual submission of Form 470s must be postmarked, to allow for the 28-day posting period before Form 471s can be signed and submitted.
   - ?? **December 20, 2001** – Last day to file Form 470 online. Note that errors on forms will delay processing and posting of Form 470s.
   - ?? **January 17, 2002** – Filing window closes at 11:59 p.m. EST. Forms 471 including signed certifications or certifications completed online with a User ID and PIN must be received by SLD or postmarked no later than January 17 to be considered as filed within the application window.

MOREnet staff have been retained to provide assistance to Missouri schools and libraries. Visit the MOREnet web site at www.more.net/usf/ or contact Jeanne Sullivan at MOREnet at 1-800-509-6673.

State and District Technology Plans

District Technology Plans
According to our files, over 170 districts had technology plans that "expired" in September, never received state approval, or never submitted a plan for state approval. Readers have been reviewing plans submitted in September. Thus far, 107 of the district plans are approved and another 40 are still being reviewed. Some of those under review may not reach approval and 30 districts in the target group failed to submit plans. Instructional Technology staff are contacting the districts to see what assistance is needed. Schools must submit a plan by December 7, 2001 and receive state approval by the December 31 or jeopardize their continued participation in TAG/VIDEO, TNP, eMINTS, and e-rate programs.

Beginning in 2002, district technology plans will be evaluated against newer, more expanded criteria. Visit Instructional Technology's website and click on Technology Planning to find district approval expiration dates and information about how to develop effective plans that meet the new criteria. [www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/techplan.htm]

Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan
The Department is drafting a new, five-year, statewide technology plan. The current draft reflects feedback and ideas received over the last five years, from various individuals and groups including our statewide technology advisory committee, technology planning task forces, technology plan reviewers. The new plan builds on the progress of the last five years; continues to promote technology access, use, professional development, and partnerships; and, provides schools and policy makers with a blueprint to guide and facilitate state and local planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation into the future.

The plan has five overall goals, one for each of the Technology Focus Areas (TFAs) emphasized in our new Technology Planning website materials. The TFAs address 1) student learning, 2) teacher preparation and delivery of instruction, 3) Administration / Management / Communications, 4) Distribution and Use, and 5) Technical Support. TFA sub-committees will be formed in November to work on objectives under each goal. The new draft will then be presented at the December technology advisory committee meeting. Anyone interested in taking part in these endeavors should email Deborah Sutton – be sure to indicate the TFA committee(s) in which you are interested.

✍ eMINTS in the News

Columbia Public Schools
Parkade Elementary School was selected as one of 15 "Honorable Mention" schools by the SBC Foundation and the National Association of Partners in Education Program "Bridging the Digital Divide." Parkade School used grant funds, additional eMINTS resources, and district funds to transform all classrooms, grades 3-5, into eMINTS classrooms. After one year, the school was able to show significant progress on the MAP.

A representative from Parkade will receive hotel recommendations and roundtrip airfare to Washington, D.C. to attend the congressional awards reception held in January to honor winners. The Parkade application will be featured in the SBC Winners Booklet to be distributed throughout the Partners in Education national network. Parkade's home page can be found at http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/pke/.

Sullivan C-2
In the October issue of ISTE's Learning and Leading with Technology journal, is an article written by a teacher from Minnesota about improving parent communication with a web page. She cited Sharon Sumner's page as the inspiration for her design. Sharon is an FY01 eMINTS teacher. Her web page can be viewed at http://eagles.k12.mo.us/sumner/

✍ High Plains R*TEC Features New Web Tools and Resources
http://hprtec.org

Many of you are already familiar with web tools and resources provided by the High Plains Regional Technology in Education Consortium (HPR*TEC). Missouri teachers and students make regular use of the Profiler (second only to the number of Kansas users) as well as TrackStar, www.4teachers, and www.4kids. But, have you heard about these new tools and resource?

RubiStar

This tool helps teachers create rubrics for project-based learning activities. RubiStar provides generic rubrics that can be used or customized to fit projects and research assignments.

Project Based Learning
This tool helps keep students on track through a collection of age-appropriate, customizable checklists for written reports, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. It gives students responsibility for their own learning.

Web WorkSheet Wizard
Use Project Poster and Web Worksheet Wizard to put lessons and reports online. Students may use Project Poster to share school projects, and teachers can post lessons for use by students and parents.

NoteStar
Designed for students, grade 4-12, NoteStar assists students in taking notes while browsing online resources. Source information is automatically captured. Once notes are gathered, students can organize them to suit project needs. Once a NoteStar project has been assigned, the teacher can monitor student progress at any time and provide timely feedback.

Edlines
After a year's hiatus, Edlines is back in a new and improved format. Edlines is a web-based news service that provides a convenient way to keep up with breaking news in education and technology. Sign up for Edlines Digest, which will send an email to prompt you to read new articles.

Check out the October 22 article "The Knowledge Loom: Good Models of Teachings with Technology" provided by the Northeast and Islands R*TEC. It addresses elements present in good models of teaching with technology and best practices with regards to standards, assessment, accessibility, and multiple learning strategies.

? ISTE Offers the Journal of Research on Technology in Education Online
www.iste.org

Perhaps you are also aware of the abundance of information made available online by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). Likely you visited the website to learn about standards projects, professional development, teacher resources, NECC, or research projects. But have you heard that the website also posts the Journal of Research on Technology in Education (formerly Journal of Research on Computing in Education)?

Check out the article "Technology-Using Teachers: Comparing Perceptions of Exemplary Technology Use to Best Practices" which examines the pedagogical beliefs and classroom practices of exemplary tech-using teachers.

? NASBE Report – "Any Time, Any Place, Any Path, Any Pace: Taking the Lead on e-Learning Policy"
www.nasbe.org

In October, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) released this report to serve as a blueprint for state and federal education policies to assure that e-learning spreads rapidly, equitably, and maximizes student achievement and strengthens education. Key recommendations include re-engineering the education system, revising learning standards bringing assessments online, empowering families, and ensuring equity and access.

? Software Piracy: Unauthorized Copying, Downloading, and Borrowing

Technology & Learning -- www.techlearning.com
This website provides various resources for education technology leaders. "Understanding Software Use and Abuse in Our Schools" posted October 1, 2001 discussed the consequences of schools using unauthorized copies of software programs or allowing the use of other people's intellectual property – not only the monetary fines if caught, but also the damage in setting a double standard for students. (Visit www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/TL/)

Business Software Alliance -- http://www.bsa.org
Posted on Business Software Alliance's website is a downloadable report "Software Management Guide" (http://www.bsa.org/usa/freetools/business/gsmus.pdf/) which discusses the benefits of effective software management, the risks of illegal software use, and preventing piracy.

? MarcoPolo and Technology Leadership Academy Opportunities

MarcoPolo
Missouri's MarcoPolo program is getting rave reviews. The RPDCs conduct the teacher training workshops that show teachers the vast resources available on the MarcoPolo website. For more information about the training sessions contact your local RPDC, the Leadership Academy (http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divteachqual/leadership/index.html), or visit the MarcoPolo website (http://marcopolo.worldcom.com/).

Technology Leadership Academy
The application window is still open for the new Technology Leadership Academy (TLA), supported with a grant from the Gates Foundation and matching funds from the Leadership Academy and Instructional Technology. The Academy involves five one-day sessions, January through May, to help superintendents and principals become effective technology leaders. Applications will be accepted through November 15. To learn more about the program and access the online applications, visit the SuccessLink website at http://www.successlink.org/.

? Professional Development Resource Web Site
   http://www.cmsu.edu/mopd/

Thanks to the hard work of some very dedicated individuals, we are pleased to announce the Instructional Technology Professional Development Resource Web Site. The site is intended to be a meeting place for individuals looking for PD resources or a presenter, to offer their services as a presenter on a variety of topics, or to participate in a variety of professional development discussions. The web address is http://www.cmsu.edu/mopd/ and we invite you to visit soon.

If you have expertise you would like to share with others in your region or on a statewide basis, we encourage you to add your information to the database of Instructional Technology Facilitators. If you have a web site or document to share, please email it to instrtech@mail.dese.state.mo.us We also welcome any comments or suggestions about the site or the information.

Many thanks go to Sally Burnett, CMSU, Stan Smith from Warrensburg Public Schools, and Kathy Reifschneider, Festus for chairing the group that got this site off the ground. Also, thanks go to the CMSU web genius Robin for putting all their good ideas together into the site and making it work, and to CMSU for hosting the web site. We hope you benefit from this web site and look forward to hearing from you!

✍ Kinetic Announcement
--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, MOREnet

MOREnet is offering a new service to participants of the DESE Technology Network Program. *kinetic* is a service that provides e-mail services to school district staff and students; hosts district websites with special features like interactive calendars, Java applets and more.

How does it work? It's simple. MOREnet takes care of the hardware, the software, the ongoing maintenance of software patches, hardware upgrades, security in its centrally located facilities. *kinetic* gives districts the complete freedom to manage and maintain these services, simply, efficiently and inexpensively, while taking away the trouble and expense of maintaining the system.

For FY02, there is an initial application window. *kinetic* will be rolled out during FY02 on a limited basis. During this initial phase, participation will be limited to approximately 25 school districts, which will be selected based on Selection Criteria available on the *kinetic* website at http://www.more.net/kinetic

All applications received within the window will be considered for participation first. After the deadline, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. If interested, **c**omplete the application either online or paper. Please go to http://www.more.net/kinetic for application information. **The application window closes November 30.**

✍ e-Rate "Mini-Quiz"

The mission of the Missouri Rural Opportunities Council (MoROC) is "to improve the quality of life, enhance opportunities, and help empower citizens and rural communities of Missouri by bringing together a coalition of public and private entities." They have many working committees that address issues pertinent to life in rural Missouri. The Education and Telecommunications committee of MoROC, recognizing that many schools may not be receiving the full benefit of the E-Rate program, has developed a "mini-Quiz" to help you "guessimate" your amount of discount. You can find it at
http://www.moroc.org/workingcommittees/Erate%20Discount.html

In addition, the MoROC web site contains other information especially of interest to educators under the "Working Committees – Education" or "Working Committees – Telecommunications" headings.

✍ Student Technology Fair

At our recent technology conference, representatives of various groups from across the state met to discuss the possibility of organizing a Student Technology Fair. This would give students the opportunity to showcase technology projects and to receive positive recognition at the local, regional and state (legislative) levels. The group agreed that we should do a better job of keeping our legislators informed about Instructional Technology in our schools as a result of the state/federal funding.

Consensus from the group was that this is a good idea but that it needs more thought and input. Sponsors are yet to be determined. Any thoughts or feedback on participation, sponsorship, organization, etc. should be sent to Kathy Parris at kparris@mail.dese.state.mo.us or Rosalyn Wieberg at rwieberg@mail.dese.state.mo.us by December 1. A planning meeting will be scheduled in Jefferson City to pursue the idea. We need to hear from you now!

✍ Web Based Reporting for Show Me Standards
--Submitted by Carla Knutson, STARS program Manager

Internet based reporting systems are revolutionizing both parent and teacher access to data. STARS (Successful Teaching Assessing Reporting Systems) is an Internet-based software application that enhances the reporting capabilities of school districts for State Accountability Standards and Benchmarks. It is also compatible with JMC, Clear Access, SASI, ACT WorkKeys assessments, and other databases. STARS reports on successful teacher and school achievement of Federal, State and local standards, benchmarks, and standardized tests. The STARS platform is a perfect platform for the "Show Me" standards and offers web-based access to parents, teachers and school administrators.

To schedule an online STARS demo, please send an email to cknutson@fastek.ws or call 1-888-404-5552. If you are not interested in a narrative demo at this time, you can walk through the STARS self-tour at www.fastek.ws/starswalk

✍ METPA
--Submitted by Kevin Roberson, METPA President

Once Upon A Time…
We have all seen these simple words at the beginning of stories or fairy tales that we have read in the past. Once upon a time there was this great kingdom… or once upon a time there lived a mean old witch. These phrases tend to draw us further into the stories that we are reading in the hopes that we may find out what happened to the kingdom or the mean old witch. I hope that is the case with my simple story. For you see…

Once upon a time there was a group of people who gathered together twice a year to discuss the tricks of their trade. Each time they met, their frustration at seeing what many believed to be

injustices in their trade grew stronger. They talked about low pay, numerous responsibilities, no respect, and very little support from the bosses. It all seemed pretty hopeless.

Then one day someone suggested they form an organization with an official sounding name and work toward ending these injustices. A roar went up from the crowd as the masses cheered this wonderful idea. The organization was formed, a name was decided upon, the goals that they would work for were established, and everyone was excited about the future. Yet, when the proverbial smoke had cleared, only a very few of the masses decided to actually join this organization.

By now many of you realize that this story is about the Missouri Educational Technology Professionals Association. You can also deduce from the story that we are at a point in our organization where one of two things can happen. We can stay a relatively small group and then eventually whither away into nothing and never to be heard from again **or** we can grow in our membership and be a very strong voice for educational technology in our state and, who knows, perhaps even our country.

Please help us "write" a happy ending to our story. If you are an Educational Technology Professional in Missouri, please join METPA now! Membership gives you the opportunity to be heard and to help make a difference for Educational Technology in our state by serving on committees that will be making recommendations about technology items to state legislators and policy-makers. Just send your $25 dues along with your name, address, title, school district and email to the following address:

> METPA
> 200 Madison Street
> Suite 280, PMB103
> Jefferson City, MO 65101

Help us pave the way to a successful future with Educational Technology in Missouri. Join METPA today!

✎ Laptop Storage Systems
--Submitted by Jonathan Ruttenberg

American Locker manufactures Laptop Storage Systems, both keyed and keyless, which offer secure storage, individual access control, and recharging capability (if desired). Our Keyed product uses 16 million key combinations and the Keyless product uses 7-digit codes for individual access control, thereby solving one of the most vexing issues involving laptops—truly secure but also accessible storage in a school setting. Our product is very different than the mobile carts and cabinets, which currently are being used as the default product for laptops. We have been selling the specialty storage products for over 15 years as a solution for data processing, mail distribution, and after-hours library transactions until SBC requested that we add recharging capability to our product so that it could be used for storage of laptops. Presto— What an idea to extend to schools! For more information contact me at 614-451-3649 or email jruttenberg@aol.com

✎ Kindergarten in the Computer Lab, What to do With Them????
--Submitted by Sandy Callahan, Kindergarten Teacher, St. Francis Xavier School, Jefferson City, MO

Kindergarten students love going to the lab. They have 'no fear' when it comes to all the keys, flashing lights on programs or just typing away. This enthusiasm is awesome and can be channeled into learning.

Start out naming the names of the computer parts so they know what to use when you tell them. You'll need to repeat these many times. We begin in 'Paint' for an easy "mouse type" program. The 'Paint' program is a great way to teach "mouse manipulation". This lets them draw, write or type. They can color pictures, write number sentences or illustrate math problems. Later in the year they will use this program to create slides for PowerPoint and their class "ebook". These are teacher led, group activities. They very quickly learn that the "x" in the right hand corner gets them out of a program and that on the left side corner that clicking on "file", "new" and "no" get them a clean piece of paper. This carries through to many of the Windows programs.

Second semester we start to "write" in Word. Many of the skills they learned in "Paint" work here also. We are at the point where the students are doing great with their inventive spelling. When the red squiggly lines pop up, they get three tries to get rid of it and then they go on. With the green squiggly line they know if it isn't a "space" error to go on. With "Word" we have to type, so the introduction of 'left and right' side of the keyboard is a must. Their fingers are too small to get all the keys. We just stress using both hands. By this time of the year we have many digital pictures to choose from and the students are encouraged to insert a picture in their typing. Often the pictures don't match what they have typed but that's the fun of it. They also learn to save to their disk.

The students love going to computer. While they enjoy the learning CD's that we have, they truly love to create books with their drawings and record poems. It takes a lot of repetition and one-on-one help. It isn't long before there are students helping other students to accomplish our computer class goal.

✎ Learning With Technology
--Featuring Hancock Place and Arcadia Valley R-I

Hancock Place

Gotta Go to Work

Hancock Place Elementary knew that that they had to go to work to improve the technology environment and technology integration skills. "Gotta Go to Work" became the beginning of a new season of enthusiasm for technology in our building. Like the St. Louis Rams, we built a team effort and plan for success which is fostering a winning season in the technology arena via staff development and technology integration. Like the RAMS, we have assembled a coaching staff to provide direction, leadership, and training. The coaching staff consists of grade level team leaders, technology personnel, reading facilitator and administration.

Grant funds enabled the creation of a training and instructional lab for students, staff, and community. Prior to grant implementation, infrastructure was in place and the technology plan provided direction. However, the only lab environment was an outdated, Apple IIGS lab. Students were not receiving instruction in either the Windows environment or access of Internet/network resources. Student enthusiasm is exciting, as they are not only learning Windows' skills but also creating multimedia presentations with HyperStudio. The Internet has provided a plethora of resources for grade level curricular projects.

Prior to the creation of our new 21st Century lab, staff development was poorly attended because workshops were conducted off-site. One of the most successful aspects of the "Gotta Go to

Work" project has been the teacher enthusiasm; the lab has been filled to capacity. As we addressed the teacher as learner, the coaching team utilized teacher suggestions and curricular needs as a tool in designing staff development workshops. The most successful training activities involved learning how to setup and use equipment. During one training, we distributed TVAtors (purchased with another grant) to all in attendance. After demonstration of setup, we sent the teachers to their rooms to actually perform setup for full functionality. We utilized the same approach with VCR programming and TV/VCR setup (coaxial cables were purchased with the Video Grant funds). The same game plan worked for teaching staff to use digital cameras, scanners, LCD projectors, and Smartboards. Hands-on activities, getting "stuff" for classrooms, stipends, and food were indeed motivators for after-school training. Blackmail was also sometimes effective. Do you want email? Attend the workshop. Do you want voice mail? Attend the workshop. Another key component to staff development was putting the training in the hands of our competent in-house trainers who attended local, state, and national conferences.

As we tout the success and enthusiasm for our "Gotta Go to Work" project, the most important component is the coordination with other building reform efforts to create a common goal. Reading workshops included the utilization of instructional software and report design. Saturday morning reading festivals often drew over 200 parents and students, an opportunity, which we used to likewise include lab time and activities. Open lab time was created after school as a part of the tutoring program to give families the chance to work together in previewing software and exploring Internet resources.

Any successful project requires a team effort and a sense of ownership in the activities, successes, and joint struggles to achieve shared goals. Delegation of responsibilities is the first task of any wise technology coordinator who is often foolish enough to try to do everything without asking for help. All decisions and activities were driven by the stakeholders in the building – our teachers. In one of my wiser moments as a retiring tech coordinator, I have strategically conned my young replacement into sharing the load and jointly writing this Newsline "show and tell." Can she even imagine what is in store for her?

For more information contact Karen Fingerhut, Technology Coordinator, or Michelle Dirksen, Reading Facilitator, Hancock Place School District at http://hancock.k12.mo.us

Arcadia Valley R-I
The Arcadia Valley R-II TLCF grant has made a significant impact on its primary focus, student achievement. Our MAP and Terra Nova scores have either increased or met the state standard. During the first year of the grant we focused on infrastructure. By the end of the first year, every teacher in the district had a computer with Internet connection and each building in the district had at least one lab of twenty computers with Internet access. Along with the necessary hardware, the district purchased software for the teachers to use in their classrooms and in the labs. Microsoft Office was placed on the computers for word processing and presentation development. A comprehensive curriculum package, the A+LS Learning System software was placed on the district network for use by all students.

The key to our success was the professional development that was provided to all our teachers. During the first year every teacher attended training on web page development, writing web quests, and administration and use of the A+LS software. During the second year twenty different in-service topics were provided with each district teacher attending as many as ten sessions. The combination of hardware, software and professional development has allowed the Arcadia Valley R-II School District to meet our goal of raising student achievement. For more information contact David Dillard, Technology Coordinator, at ddillard@mail.av.k12.mo.us

✍ Interactive Distance Learning in Action

Reading Wranglers

All over the United States, teachers are gearing up to improve the way reading is taught. At Holden R-II, teachers adopted the theme" Reading Wranglers" to emphasize they are going to use new techniques to catch every student and make sure none of the stragglers are left behind. Holden teachers are using these new techniques not only to help students be better readers, but also to help teachers be better teachers of reading.

Holden Elementary School Principal Robyn Sisk worked with a team of teachers over the summer to develop the "Reading Wranglers" proposal, which was funded through the Read To Be Ready grant program offered through DESE. Professional Development is a major component of the project.

Joanna Wentz, reading consultant from the Literacy Consortium, provided live interactive reading instruction delivered via ITV. Holden teachers, along with teachers from other districts, connected over ITV, and had the benefit of this reading instruction. The staff of We MET and MIT-E Net two-way interactive network worked together to coordinate participation. During the first session in December, teachers from Prairie Home, Missouri, joined over ITV and worked with Holden teachers as they learned to use the data gathered from Running Records to improve instruction. The Holden teachers were able to answer questions and provide real life examples via the document camera for all the teachers to evaluate. This dynamic learning environment helped provide high quality instruction to all participants, including those who could not travel to Holden for the event.

Two more sessions were planned during the winter. Wentz lead workshops entitled "Introduction to Leveling Your Own Books" and "Introduction to Guided Reading" over the ITV system.

"We reaped many benefits from this project," says Julie Brunner, technology coordinator for Holden. "Besides having more trained teachers in the individual districts, teachers have benefited from the collaboration between districts. We have also shown the power of using the distance learning equipment to target topics for the regular classroom. Lots of us know how to 'turn it on' now, so we are looking for good opportunities to move past using the equipment just for calculus. One new project we are beginning to work on focuses on a collaborative science project with students in Turkey."

For information on how to introduce this type of interactive broadcasts to your district, please contact Julie Brunner at Holden R-III (816-732-6541) or jbrunner@holden.k12.mo.us To read the entire grant and see the links to relevant parent and teacher activities, visit www.go.holden.org and click on "Grants and Projects."

Note: Some of the information in this article first appeared in the January 2001 (Volume 1 Issue 2) issue of *Going the Distance* – the newsletter of the Missouri Distance Learning Association. To access the newsletter, visit http://www.modla.org/about/newsletters/Jan2001_news.pdf

✍ Professional Development Tip of the Month
--Submitted by Darl Davis, Director, Northeast RPDC, Kirksville, Missouri

Money and Time

The two reasons most often given for why we can't provide professional development opportunities are money and time. As we visit schools and discuss various issues concerning school improvement, invariably the discussion turns to money and time. The money issue is entirely understandable given the conditions we currently find in the State concerning finances. The issue of time is another matter.

How can we provide quality staff development opportunities with the current financial situation? We must be willing to think of alternative means of providing time for our professional development other than evenings after school, weekends, or extended contracts. Each of these requires additional compensation or an unrealistic commitment of our professional staff. There are several teachers currently spending enormous amounts of time outside the contracted day and year to improve themselves.

The way an individual or district allocates time is a true indication of what they value. If we truly value professional development, then we will provide the necessary time. Many districts invest thousands of dollars for technology and fail to provide any time for training. School districts want teachers to form study groups, collaborate, study data, and develop quality curriculum in their "spare time."

Several districts have figured out a way to address the issues of money and time for staff development. The critical question is how will your district address these issues. This decision must be a local one with all of the stakeholders involved in the solution.

✍ Copyright Question of the Month

May an educator (e.g., administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer, or others download material from a web page **without a copyright** notice and incorporate the entire web page into a multimedia project?

No. The assumption must be made that everything is copyrighted even in the absence of the copyright notice. Lack of a copyright notice on a work does not mean it is not protected.

Note: Most web sites contain an e-mail address that the educator may easily use to contact the copyright owner for permission to use the information on the web page.

CAUTION: Be aware that some information is posted without the knowledge and permission of the original copyright owner. It is important to remember that the person posting or managing the web site may not be the original copyright owner and therefore does not have the right to grant permission for use.

✍ Mark Your Calendar

November

1	NEWSLINE is two years old this month…HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
1	Newsline published online
5	First payment of approved year two TLCF grants
8	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 p.m.) Governor Office Building—Room 316, Jefferson City, MO

12	Veteran's Day (Observed) State Holiday
22	Happy Thanksgiving
25	Newsline articles due
29	Missouri Rural Education Symposium (9:00-4:00 p.m.)
	Ike Skelton National Guard Armory, Jefferson City, MO

December

1	Newsline published online
5	First payment of approved year two TLCF grants
10	VIDEO Advisory Meeting,
	Truman Office Building—Room 490, Jefferson City, MO
13	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education
	Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 p.m.)
	Governor Office Building—Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
21	Newsline articles due

✍ Upcoming 2001-2002 Conferences

November 7-10	15th Annual Technology + Learning Conference
	Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA
	National School Boards Association ITTE: Education Technology
	Programs http://www.nsba.org
November 17-20	TIES 2001 Education Technology Conference
	Minneapolis Hyatt Regency Hotel
	http://www.ties.k12.mn.us/ties2001index.html
November 18-20	New York State Association for Computers & Technologies in Education
	2001 Annual Conference: "The Future is in Your Hands"
	Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY
	www.nyscate.org
November 27-29	Annual Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference
	Nashua, New Hampshire
	http://www.nhsaa.org/
January 27-29	Midwest Education & Technology Conference
	Millennium Hotel, St. Louis
	Cooperating School Districts
March 5-6	Annual Technology Conference
	University Plaza Hotel, Springfield
	RCET-SW
March 5-6	MOREnet Spring Technical Conference
	Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
	Missouri Research and Education Network

✍ From the Mailbag

Poetry contest
http://www.mightybook.com/writ_contests2001.html
Check out the poetry contest--entries due by December 2001. Let's see some Missouri students
as winners!

Palm Awards $2.3 Million
http://www.palm.com/education
In its second round of grant awards, the Palm Education Pioneer (PEP) program allocated $2.3 million in Palm hand-held units to elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities. Research from the grants will be used to determine best practices for integrating hand-helds into the curriculum and teacher training. Among the new PEP research hubs are the Archdiocese of Dubuque School System in Dubuque, Iowa; the Beaufort County School District in Beaufort, South Carolina, and the Fremont Union High School District in Sunnyvale, California, Schools selected to receive PEP classroom grants include: Buford Elementary School in Lennox, California; Goodrich Middle School in Lincoln, Nebraska; Sherrard Elementary School in Moundsville, West Virginia; Cranford High School in Cranford, New Jersey; and Berkeley High School in Berkeley, California. A complete list of the 87 PEP K-12 grants and nine research hub awards is available online. http://www.palm.com/education

Integrated Math, Science, and Technology Instructional Distance Learning Programs
http://www.connect.larc.nasa.gov
NASA Connect is a free, annual series of integrated math, science, and technology instructional distance learning programs for students in grades 5-8. Each program has three components: (1) a 30-minute television broadcast, which can be viewed live or taped for later use; (2) an interactive web activity, which gives educators an opportunity to use technology in the classroom setting; and (3) a lesson guide describing a hands-on activity. These three components are designed as an integrated instructional package. Teachers who register on the NASA Connect web site will receive, via email, the date of upcoming shows, a show summary, and a PDF version of the lesson guide.

Virginia's Answer to Enrollment Boom: 'Virtual' U
http://www.washtech.com/news/software/13184-1.html
Virginia's officials are planning a new "virtual" university that would allow students to earn degrees by combining online and traditional course work from colleges across the state. Under a plan approved yesterday, the new institution will open in 2003. Virginia Virtual University would grant degrees but offer no course content of its own, said G. Paul Nardo, a spokesman for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Instead the university will act as a broker, assisting students in bringing earned credits together to earn an associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree. A staff of professors will advise each student individually. Additionally, someone taking part-time course work at two or more schools could have it all counted as full time under the auspices of VVU. (SOURCE: Washington Post, AUTHOR: Amy Argetsinger)

✍ Internet Sites of Interest

Quiz Hub
http://quizhub.com
Quiz Hub is a growing collection of online interactive learning quizzes. Topics include English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, art, music, geography, government, history, mathematics, earth science, biology, chemistry, and physics. Most of the quizzes require the free Macromedia Flash 5 Player.

Online graphing
http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/graphing

Famous Missourians
http://www.kclibrary.org/sc/bio/default.htm
A resource engine for Famous Missourians developed by the Kansas City Library.

Science and Technology Competitions
The Internet is a great way to find science and technology competitions for students of all ages.
Some of the sites you'll find:

NSTA/Toshiba: ExploraVision Competition
http://www.toshiba.com/tai/exploravision/

ThinkQuest Competitions
http://www.thinkquest.org/competitions.html

TSA: National Competitive Events
http://www.tsaweb.org/competition/natlcomp.htm

NASA Student Involvement Program (NSIP) Competitions
http://www.nsip.net/competitions

WWW Virtual Library: Science Fair Directory
http://physics.usc.edu/~gould/ScienceFairs/

Siemens Westinghouse Science and Technology Award
http://www.siemens-foundation.org/science/science_and_technology.htm